



Hawaii & Pacific Basin NEWSLETTER

October 2015



Your Farm Service Agency Online Monthly Newsletter Covering the Latest Topics

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Reimbursement of Transportation Costs Payment Program

November 3, 2015 is the deadline for producers to submit documentation for the 2015 Reimbursement of Transportation Costs Payment Program to the Farm Service Agency County Office.

NAP Workshops on Tap

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is partnering with the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to host workshops to assist producers in better understanding the NonInsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Workshop highlights will include:

- Introduction/review NAP and the new NAP Buy-Up option, which can provide coverage at higher than catastrophic rates, with payments starting at lower damage rates and possibly higher than under the catastrophic level
- On-line estimator for NAP Buy-Up fees
- Learn what is required to participate in NAP
- Learn about free catastrophic level coverage and discounted buy up options available to beginning, underserved and limited resource producers.

Kona, Hawaii

Monday, October 19, 2015 5:30–7:30 pm
Kona Cooperative Extension Service Conference Room (*Limited seating; to preregister email Gina at ginab@hawaii.edu or 322-4892*).

Waimea, Hawaii

Wednesday, October 21, 2015 5:30–7:30 pm
Waimea Civic Center Conference Room (*Limited seating; to preregister email Perci at proque@hawaii.edu or call 887-6183*).

Maui

Wednesday, October 28, 2015 3:30–5:30 pm
Kula Community Center (*To preregister email Stuart snakamo@hawaii.edu or 808-956-8125*).

Oahu

Thursday, October 29, 2015 5:30–7:30 pm
Pearl City Urban Garden Center (*Limited seating to preregister email Stuart at snakamo@hawaii.edu or call 956-8125*).

Hilo, Hawaii

Tuesday, November 3, 2015 5:30–7:30 pm
Komohana Research & Extension Center Conference Room (*To preregister email Stuart at snakamo@hawaii.edu or 808-956-8125*).

Emergency Loans Available in Multiple Counties

Severe weather has continued to wreak havoc on producers in Hawaii and the Pacific Basin. The latest to be impacted was Hawaii County with flash flooding that occurred August 24 through September 27, 2015. In response, Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Administrator Val Dolcini issued an Administrator's Physical Loss Notification which triggered the availability of low interest [Emergency Loans](#).

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Producers have eight months or until June 5, 2016 to apply for emergency loan assistance. Farm Service Agency will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000.

Recent natural disasters triggered the availability of emergency loans as follows:

County & Natural Disaster	Declaration Trigger	Deadline to Apply
Hawaii County Lava Flows	Presidential Disaster Declaration	November 4, 2015
Guam County Typhoon Dolphin	Presidential Disaster Declaration	February 5, 2016
Saipan & Tinian Typhoon Soudelor	Presidential Disaster Declaration	April 5, 2016
Maui and Kauai Counties – Drought	Secretarial Disaster Designation	April 19, 2016
Hawaii County Flash Flooding	Administrator's Physical Loss Notification	June 5, 2016

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300 Ala Moana Blvd, Rm 5-108 Honolulu, HI 96850 Ph: (808) 541-2600 Fax: (855)356-9493	Diane Ley State Executive Director Steve Bazzell Farm Program Loan Chief
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154 Waiānue Ave, Room 219 Hilo, HI 96720 Ph: (808)933-8381 x 1 Fax: (855)356-9492	Lester Ueda County Executive Director Linda Kow Farm Loan Manager
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Office Hours: Monday—Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm	
Next County Committee Meeting Dates: <u>Hawaii County</u> - January 8, 2016 at 8:30 am <u>Honolulu County</u> - October 30, 2015 at 3:00 pm <u>Kauai County</u> - October 21, 2015 at 8:30 am <u>Maui County</u> - December 10, 2015 at 8:30 am <u>Guam County</u> - December 16, 2015 at 9:00 am <u>CNMI County</u> - December 16, 2015 at 9:00 am Contact the County Office to confirm meeting date and time, as budget constraints may limit the County Committee's ability to meet each month and published dates may need to be changed. For a list of County Offices, contact numbers and addresses go to: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/hi_cof_staff.pdf .	

Help Wanted in Kona Agriculture Field Enumerator

We have very flexible hours; work only when needed. Agriculture background is preferred and must be a high school graduate.



If you are interested in the agriculture field enumerator position for Kona please call Shirley Fuke at (808) 959-7991 or send resume to: shirlfuke@hawaiiantel.net.

* The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) maintain a cooperative agreement which provides for NASDA to employ enumerators that in turn support the collection of data needed to complete NASS work.

Guaranteed Loan Limit Rises

Did you know that the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Guaranteed Loan limit was recently increased from \$1.359 to \$1.399 million dollars?

Guaranteed loans allow commercial lenders to provide agricultural credit to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. Farmers and ranchers apply for a guaranteed loan through a lender, and the lender arranges for the guarantee. Farm Service Agency can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan.

Guaranteed farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation or to refinance debt. Guaranteed operating loans can be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other operating expenses.

Farm Service Agency can guarantee farm ownership and operating loans up to \$1.399 million. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven (7) years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

For more information, contact your lender or FSA.

Assistance Available Due To Floods

Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds farmers and ranchers that were impacted by recent heavy rains and flooding that disaster assistance and low-interest loan programs are available to assist in their recovery efforts. Available assistance programs and loans include:

[NonInsured Crop Disaster Assistance](#) (NAP) - provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2015 crops.

[Livestock Indemnity Program](#) (LIP) - offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Eligible losses may include those determined by FSA to have been caused by hurricanes, floods, wildfires, tropical storms, tornados, lightening, extreme heat and cold. Producers will be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent.

[Tree Assistance Program](#) (TAP) – provides assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers for qualifying tree, shrub and vine losses due to natural disasters.

[Emergency Livestock, Honey Bee and Farm Raised Fish](#) (ELAP) - provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs. Producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent. The program also covers up to 150 lost grazing days in instances when a producer has been forced to remove livestock from a grazing pasture due to floodwaters. For beekeepers, ELAP covers beehive losses (the physical structure) in instances where the hive has been destroyed by a natural disaster including flooding, high winds and tornadoes.

[Farm Loan Programs](#) offers a range of low-interest loan programs including microloans to assist producers. Additionally, producers with FSA existing loans should contact their loan officer once they anticipate having problems making their regular payments.

[Emergency Loans](#) – Available to producers with agriculture operations located in Hawaii County as a result of the recently announced FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notification. These low interest loans help producers recover from production and physical losses.

To establish or retain FSA program eligibility, farmers and ranchers must report prevented planting and failed acres (crops and grasses). Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form *FSA-576, Notice of Loss*, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

For more information on disaster assistance programs and loans visit www.fsa.usda.gov/ or contact your local [FSA County Office](#).

December 1st – NAP Deadline

With the recent substantial number of severe weather systems impacting Hawaii and Pacific Island producers, it has never been a better time to sign up for 2016 NonInsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). The deadline for vegetable and fruit producers to sign up for coverage is December 1, 2015.

This program covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought and excessive moisture. Coverage is available for production of vegetables, fruit, forage and grazing crops, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

NonInsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production. Optional NAP Buy-Up offers higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of expected production at 100 percent of the average market price, including coverage for organics and crops marketed directly to consumers.

The 2014 Farm Bill expanded NAP to include higher levels of protection. Beginning, underserved and limited resource farmers are now eligible for free catastrophic level coverage, as well as discounted premiums for additional levels of protection.

To learn more about NAP and NAP Buy-Up plan to attend one of the NAP Workshops being offered soon or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local [FSA County Office](#).

Filing a Notice of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing of the CCC-576 is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the NonInsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), producers must file a CCC-576 in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

Producers of hand-harvested crops must notify FSA of damage or loss within 72 hours of the date of damage or loss first becomes apparent. This notification can be provided by filing a CCC-576, email, fax or phone. Producers who notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the CCC-576 are still required to file a CCC-576, within the required 15 calendar days.



Looking for great ideas to expand your market; want to how to collaborate with

your neighboring farmers and ranchers; need resources to make it happen? Visit www.knowyourfarmer@usda.gov today!

Interest Rates for October 2015

Farm Operating Loans	2.625%
MicroLoans	2.625 %
Farm Ownership Loans	3.75 %
Farm Ownership Loans Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50 %
Emergency Loans	3.625 %

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).



Dates to Remember

October – November 2015	NAP Workshops (See page 1 for schedule)
November 1, 2015	Deadline to apply for Emergency Livestock, Honeybee and Farm-Raised Fish Program for losses that occurred October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015.
November 3, 2015	Deadline to submit documentation for Reimbursement of Transportation Costs Payment Program
November 4, 2015	Deadline for Hawaii County producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to impact from lava flows
December 1, 2015	Deadline to apply for 2016 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and Buy-Up for fruit and vegetables
December 16, 2015	Deadline to file accurate crop certification for Grazed Forage – 15 days before the onset of grazing
January 30, 2016	Deadline for Maui and Kauai ranchers to apply for 2015 Livestock Forage Disaster Program
February 5, 2016	Deadline for Guam County producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to impacts from Typhoon Dolphin
April 5, 2016	Deadline for Saipan and Tinian producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to impacts from Typhoon Soudelor
April 19, 2016	Deadline for Maui and Kauai County producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to impacts of drought
June 5, 2016	Deadline for Hawaii county producers to apply for Emergency Loans due to flooding that occurred between August 24-September 27, 2015
Continuous	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program sign-up